

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for providing a protective ground cover comprising covering a selected area of ground with a layer of a self-coherent particulate magnetic material.

5 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said layer of self-coherent particulate magnetic material has a thickness sufficient to prevent erosion by wind and/or rain.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said layer of self-coherent particulate magnetic material has a thickness 10 sufficient to prevent growth of undesired vegetation.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said self-coherent particulate magnetic material is a ferrite.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said ferrite is strontium ferrite.

15 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said self-coherent particulate magnetic material is a mixture of a ferrite and a magnetic attractive material.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said ferrite is strontium ferrite.

20 8. The method of Claim 6, wherein said magnetic attractive material is magnetite.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said layer of self-coherent particulate magnetic material has a thickness ranging from about 5 millimeters to about 100 millimeters.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said layer of self-coherent particulate magnetic material has a thickness ranging from about 5 millimeters to about 75 millimeters.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein said layer of self-
5 coherent particulate magnetic material has a thickness ranging from about 13 millimeters to about 50 millimeters.

12. A self-coherent particulate magnetic material comprising magnetic particles having a diameter of from about 1 millimeter to about 25 millimeters.

10 13. The self-coherent particulate magnetic material of
Claim 12 comprising magnetic particles having diameter from about 6 millimeters to about 13 millimeters.

14. A self-coherent particulate magnetic material comprising a mixture of a particulate magnetic material and a
15 particulate magnetic attracting material.

15. The mixture of Claim 14, wherein said particulate magnetic material comprises at least about 50% by volume of said mixture.

16. A self-coherent particulate magnetic material
20 comprising a mixture of a particulate magnetic material and a particulate magnetically inert material.

17. The mixture of Claim 14, wherein said particulate magnetic material comprises at least about 50% by volume of said mixture.

18. A method for providing a mulch cover comprising covering a selected area of ground with a layer of a self-coherent particulate magnetic material.

19. A mulch comprising a self-coherent particulate 5 magnetic material comprising magnetic particles having a diameter of from about 1 millimeter to about 25 millimeters.

20. A mulch comprising a self-coherent particulate magnetic material comprising a mixture of a particulate magnetic material and a particulate magnetic attracting 10 material.